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Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 29th to 31st, 41st and 42nd meetings, on 27 and 31 October and on 6 and 8 December 2000. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/55/SR.29-31, 41 and 42). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 7th meetings, on 2, 3 and 5 October (see A/C.2/55/SR.3-7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/55/222);

(b) Letter dated 5 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly, transmitting the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at the South Summit of the Group of 77, held at Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000 (A/55/74);

(c) Letter dated 28 June 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the joint communiqué of the Tenth Summit of the Group of Fifteen, held at Cairo on 19 and 20 June 2000 (A/55/139-E/2000/93);

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(d) Letter dated 1 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué Okinawa 2000 adopted by the Group of Eight on 23 July 2000 (A/55/257-S/2000/766);

(e) Letter dated 5 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the ministerial statement adopted at the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 15 September 2000 (A/55/459);

(f) Letter dated 28 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the declaration adopted by the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 18 September 2000 (A/C.2/55/4).

4. At the 29th meeting, on 27 October, the Chief of the New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/55/SR.29).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/55/L.43 and Rev.1

5. At the 41st meeting, on 6 December, the Chairman of the Committee introduced a draft resolution entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/55/L.43), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2001, as well as its resolutions 53/182 of 15 December 1998 and 54/235 of 23 December 1999,

"*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,

"*Taking note* of the Declaration of the South Summit and the Havana Programme of Action adopted at the South Summit of the Group of 77, held in Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000, the Declaration adopted by the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 18 September 2000, and the Declaration adopted by the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China, held in New York on 15 September 2000,

"*Noting* the progress made in the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the country, regional and global levels,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparations for the Conference, the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its first session, held in New York from 24 to 28 July 2000, and the outcome of the forty-seventh session of

the Trade and Development Board on the preparatory process of the Conference,

"*Noting* the *Least Developed Countries 2000 Report*,

"1. *Recalls* that the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will convene from 14 to 20 May 2001 and will be hosted by the European Union in Brussels;

"2. *Decides*, in the light of the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its first session, to convene the second session of the Committee from 5 to 9 February 2001 in New York, at which the Committee will undertake the first formal reading of the draft programme of action and consider other relevant matters, while noting that the final session of the Committee will be held in New York from 2 to 6 April 2001;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to defray the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the second and final sessions of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee through the use of extrabudgetary resources, and further requests that the Bureau keep the matter under regular review on the basis of information provided by the Secretary-General of the Conference;

"4. *Notes* that sufficient extrabudgetary resources will need to be mobilized to defray the cost of participation of least developed countries at the third session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and in this regard invites additional contributions from multilateral and bilateral donors, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to seek funding from all possible sources for this purpose;

"5. *Welcomes* the contributions already made by multilateral and bilateral donors for participation of representatives from the least developed countries at the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee sessions and the Conference;

"6. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders from least developed countries and their development partners, as well as of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral organizations;

"7. *Recognizes* the importance of the contribution of civil society actors at the Conference and its preparatory process, and underlines in this regard the need for their active participation, including those from the least developed countries, and invites donors to make appropriate contributions for that purpose;

"8. *Invites* participation at the Conference and its preparatory process of (a) the relevant non-governmental organizations that enjoy consultative status in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, (b) the non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the Second Conference in 1990 and (c) the non-governmental organizations that enjoy consultative status with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and decides that the accreditation of other interested civil society actors, in particular non-governmental organizations and the business

sector, to the Conference and its preparatory process shall be considered by the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee on a non-objection basis before 31 January 2001 for final decision by the Committee at its second session, provided that requests for accreditation are submitted to the Secretariat of the Conference before 15 January 2001 and accompanied by the relevant information, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to appropriately inform the community of civil society actors about this accreditation process;

"9. *Also invites* the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee to make recommendations for the consideration of member States during the second session of the Committee as to the form of involvement of such civil society actors in the Conference and the final session of the Committee;

"10. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the Conference and its follow-up and implementation;

"11. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as Convenor of the United Nations Development Group, to continue to ensure the full involvement of the United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries in the preparations for the Conference, in particular at the country level;

"12. *Welcomes* the statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the Conference, and calls upon the Secretary-General, in consultations with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to convene inter-agency consultations, within the context of the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant multilateral intergovernmental organizations, during the preparatory process for the Conference and the implementation and follow-up of its outcome;

"13. *Emphasizes* the importance of an effective arrangement for follow-up, review and monitoring of the new programme of action, and requests the Secretary-General to recommend to the General Assembly concrete steps in this regard;

"14. *Stresses* that the intergovernmental follow-up, monitoring and review of the new programme of action should be undertaken in a more effective manner, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly least developed countries, as well as with the involvement of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral intergovernmental organizations, and emphasizes the need to explore innovative approaches in this regard;

"15. *Takes note* of the current level of regular budget resources available to the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Small Island Developing Countries, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the same level of resources are made available throughout the remainder of the current biennium, including through redeployment and the use of other resources at the disposal of the Secretary-General;

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its fifty-sixth session on the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries."

6. At the same meeting, the Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.43, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/55/L.50).

7. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Chairman of the Committee introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/55/L.43/Rev.1), submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

8. At the same meeting, the Chairman informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.43/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.43/Rev.1 (see para.11).

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of France, on behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, and Bangladesh made statements (see A/C.2/55/SR.42).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2001, as well as its resolutions 53/182 of 15 December 1998 and 54/235 of 23 December 1999,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[1]

Taking note of the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at the South Summit of the Group of 77, held at Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000,[2] the Declaration adopted by the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 18 September 2000,[3] and the ministerial statement adopted at the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 15 September 2000,[4]

[1] Resolution 55/2.
[2] A/55/74, annex.
[3] A/C.2/55/4, annex.
[4] A/55/459, annex.

Noting the progress made in the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the country, regional and global levels,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparations for the Conference,[5] the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its first session,[6] held in New York from 24 to 28 July 2000, and the outcome of the forty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board on the preparatory process of the Conference,

Noting the *Least Developed Countries 2000 Report*,[7]

1. *Recalls* that the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will convene from 14 to 20 May 2001 and will be hosted by the European Union at Brussels;

2. *Decides*, in the light of the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its first session, to convene within existing resources, the second session of the Committee from 5 to 9 February 2001 in New York, at which the Committee will undertake the first formal reading of the draft programme of action and consider other relevant matters, while noting that the final session of the Committee will be held in New York from 2 to 6 April 2001;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to defray the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the second and final sessions of the Preparatory Committee through the use of extrabudgetary resources, and further requests that the Bureau keep the matter under regular review on the basis of information provided by the Secretary-General of the Conference;

4. *Notes* that sufficient extrabudgetary resources will need to be mobilized to defray the cost of participation of the least developed countries at the third session of the Preparatory Committee, and in this regard, invites additional contributions from multilateral and bilateral donors, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to seek funding from all possible sources for this purpose;

5. *Welcomes* the contributions already made by multilateral and bilateral donors for the participation of representatives from the least developed countries in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders from the least developed countries and their development partners, as well as of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral organizations;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the contribution of civil society actors at the Conference and its preparatory process, stresses, in this regard, the need for their active participation, including those from the least developed countries, and invites donors to make appropriate contributions for that purpose;

8. *Invites* participation in the Conference and in its preparatory process of (a) the relevant non-governmental organizations that enjoy consultative status in

[5] A/55/222.

[6] See A/CONF.191/IPC/L.3 and Add.1-3.

[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. 00.II.D.21.

accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, (b) the non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1990 and (c) the non-governmental organizations that enjoy consultative status with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, decides that the accreditation of other interested civil society actors, in particular non-governmental organizations and the business sector, to the Conference and its preparatory process shall be considered by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee on a non-objection basis before 31 January 2001 for final decision by the Committee at its second session, provided that requests for accreditation are submitted to the secretariat of the Conference before 15 January 2001 and are accompanied by the relevant information, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to inform the community of civil society actors appropriately about this accreditation process;

9. *Also invites* the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to make recommendations for the consideration of member States during the second session of the Committee as to the form of involvement of civil society actors in the Conference and the final session of the Committee;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the Conference and its follow-up and implementation;

11. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as convenor of the United Nations Development Group, to continue to ensure the full involvement of the United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries in the preparations for the Conference, in particular at the country level;

12. *Welcomes* the statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the Conference, and calls upon the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to convene inter-agency consultations, within the context of the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant multilateral intergovernmental organizations, during the preparatory process for the Conference and the implementation and follow-up of its outcome;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of an effective arrangement for follow-up, review and monitoring of a new programme of action for the least developed countries, and requests the Secretary-General to recommend to the General Assembly concrete steps in this regard;

14. *Stresses* that the intergovernmental follow-up, monitoring and review of the new programme of action should be undertaken in a more effective manner, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly the least developed countries, as well as with the involvement of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral intergovernmental organizations, and emphasizes the need to explore innovative approaches in this regard;

15. *Takes note* of the current level of regular budget resources available to the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Small Island Developing Countries, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that

sufficient resources are made available throughout the remainder of the current biennium, through judicious management of the resources at the disposal of the Secretary-General, and to report on the matter at its fifty-sixth session;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-sixth session a report on the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.